

# Currents

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Megwa Ezhiweback



Waawaaskone-Giizis (Flower Moon)  
May 2011 vol.8 Issue 5



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Office of Public  
Affairs  
Contact Information  
1-888-723-8288  
1-231-398-6840

## Spring 2011 Tribal Meeting



The spring membership meeting held on April 9<sup>th</sup> was historic as the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians gathered together with a quorum of registered voters in attendance for the first time ever! 292 registered voters out of a total roll of 951 were at the meeting which constituted 30.7% of eligible voters.

This vote was important from many different aspects, but most importantly for many of those citizens in attendance was that this was an exercise in their Tribal Sovereignty. This vote was a highly visible affirmation of the existence of the tribe as a sovereign entity governing their own nation. It was a very emotional time for many in the Makwaa Endaat.

According to the Tribal Constitution (Article VII – General Membership Powers, Section 1 *General Membership Meetings* (a) 3, "...at least thirty (30%) percent of the registered voters of the Tribe are present at such Membership Meetings, as verified by the Election Board.") At 1:05 p.m., the Election announced that the quorum had been reached.

At 1:35 p.m., Ogema Larry Romanelli turned over the meeting to the Tribal Election Board and their attorney to entertain proposals from tribal members for consideration by the registered voters.

Citizens presented a number of proposals which were reviewed by the Election Board and their legal counsel. Several proposals were disallowed because they violated Constitutional rules over what issues could be considered at a Membership Meeting. A number of other items were brought forward for consideration and a vote. A full story on the vote and proposals will be in the June *Currents* as certification of the vote was not available at press time. This announcement and subsequent voting followed a morning of presentations by the Ogema and staff, Casino General Manager and the Tribal Elders. See page 22 for a full report and photos of the event.

## 2011 Census is done



The 2011 US Census has been completed and there are serious questions raised by the results. See the count for Little River on page 2

## Officers deputized



LRBOI Tribal Public Safety officers were finally deputized by Manistee County in a ceremony at the Counties' new Emergency Operations Center. See the article on page 3



## Mortgage Paid Off

Tribal Council authorized the retirement of debt on the Little River Casino Resort. The \$19.3 million dollar loan has been paid off! A mortgage burning ceremony was held at the end of the Membership Meeting. See page 6 for details



# 2010 Census...what happened?

(Public Affairs Editorial)



IT'S IN OUR HANDS



## 2010 Census...what happened? (Public Affairs Editorial)

The 2010 Census is complete and the numbers are in! That is the good news. The bad news is that the reported numbers of Native American and Alaska Natives is low. Very low! Disturbingly low! In the 2000 Census, 2 of our citizens registered as being members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. For 2010, the number of 'Little River Ottawa' Indians was only 57.

While that is a good 'percentage' increase, what is concerning is that as of April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011, our tribal Enrollment Department reports that we have 4076 registered tribal citizens. That means that 4019 of our registered citizens did not indicate their tribal status in the Census! Of course some people did not participate in the census, which knocks out a few from the total number. Some might have incorrectly filled out the forms; some might not have been accurately counted and some might not have trusted the system enough to participate. In statistics studies, those things happen. However, to have 4019 out of a field of 4076 not show up properly is terrible!

Millions of dollars were spent encouraging participation and special representatives worked in our communities reaching out to everyone. Quite a bit of effort and many resources were used to try to accurately reflect the makeup of our population. What happened?

If you, the tribal citizens of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians did participate in the 2010 Census and if you did indicate that you were 'Little River Ottawa', please send us an e-mail note at ([currentscomments@lrboi.com](mailto:currentscomments@lrboi.com)) or send us a postcard or letter. This will be a totally informal survey but we want to find out if more than 57 of our people claimed their heritage on the US Census.

Census figures are used to determine levels of participation and funding for many programs which directly impact our citizens and we need to make every effort to ensure that the numbers are accurate. 57 out of 4076 just doesn't cut it!

Glenn C. Zaring, Director  
Office of Public Affairs, LRBOI

## What if the Dam breaks?

Our main reservation area in Manistee County has two major dams across the river and many of our families and friends live downstream from them. What would happen if both dams failed and millions of gallons of water started rushing downstream? That possibility was addressed as part of an on-going issue with the Emergency response community in Manistee on Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of March at the newly built Emergency Operations Center located in the Manistee Sheriffs' office.

Representatives from almost all of the region's agencies, including the LRBOI Tribal government, attended the two-hour exercise as part of their planning. This particular meeting addressed deployment of assets and resources in the case of a catastrophic dam failure. That means, who would go where to help provide both assistance for evacuation and then in rescue of people in trouble. It also means how do you deploy your assets to protect the public from going into unsafe areas?

Given the size of the area impacted and the fact that there are many, many roads into the area, the process becomes quite a challenge for Emergency Managers as well as for company executives from the owners of the dam, Consumers Power.

One of the main issues studied by the group in attendance was to review campsites and impacted residences downstream from both dams.

Within one and a half hours, the rushing water would reach Coho Bend campground and within 24 hours, the water in the Manistee River could rise as much as two feet as it went down through the city of Manistee.

This type of pre-planning and coordination between the emergency services of all agencies and governments has been proven to protect lives and minimize damage if a disaster or incident occurs. The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians through their Public Safety, Utilities, Natural Resources, Finance and Public Affairs departments as well as Casino staff are active participants in this worthwhile effort.

This type of planning and preparation is going on around the nation and to varying degrees impacts all 565 AI/AN governments.





Aanii:

As I write this, it is just before the 2011 Spring Membership Meeting. For some reason I am especially happy about Spring this year. The Elections will conclude on April 29<sup>th</sup> and I wish everyone good luck. If you have registered to vote, please remember to exercise your right. At the last Elder's Meeting held on Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>, the Public Safety Department, Conservation officers presented over 80 lbs of venison meat to our Elders from an illegally shot deer they confiscated. I

misspoke myself at the meeting and reported that it came from our Natural Resources Department. My thanks to the Public Safety Department and Officer Sergeant Mark Szynski, and new Natural Resources Officer Janelle Cook for making the presentation. Officer Cook recently transferred from a Patrol Officer to a Natural Resources officer.

The big news this month is that the Little River Casino Resort has been paid off in full. Council voted to pay off the remaining debt instead of refinancing for an additional three years. Congratulations to all.

The Muskegon Casino Project has been in the news lately. As you may be aware, there is a group pushing for seven new non-tribal casinos across the State of Michigan that we are also contending with. We are attempting to work with the new Governor and State Legislators in hopes of getting our compact amended. It has not been an easy battle with opposition from several other tribes. One way that each of you can help is to go to the [muskegonjobsnow.org](http://muskegonjobsnow.org) website and register your name to be added to a list of people supporting the effort.

I would also like to explain the process for Tribal citizens to voice their comments on Resolutions or other postings to the LRBOI Website. On any issue that is put forward for comment, you must go to [LRBOI.com](http://LRBOI.com); on the left column you will see "Tribal Council", click on that which will take you to the Tribal Council's web page. Toward the bottom of that page you will see "Notice of Proposed Ordinances" which will contain the list of proposals. To comment on any of them you just click on" E-mail: [Comment@lrboi.com](mailto:Comment@lrboi.com) and post you comments.

Until next month...

REMEMBER: Knowledge is realizing that the street is one-way, wisdom is looking both directions anyway.

## LRBOI Officers Deputized



Left to right: Pat Gilles, Sgt. Mark Szynski, Lt. Dave DeForest, Chief Mike Martin



Left to right: Sgt. Vance Bates, Brian Medacco, Ryan Furman, Craig Mayo



Early in March, a moment of history occurred when Manistee County Sheriff Dale Kowalkowski deputized eight LRBOI Tribal Public Safety Officers.

In a ceremony conducted at the new Emergency Operations Center/Training Room in the Sheriff's offices, the Sheriff gave some of the history of the two departments and a brief review of some of the challenges to cross deputization that have kept Little River from achieving what every other Michigan Native Sovereign Nation had accomplished.

Details leading to the actual deputization were worked out over the last year and came to a successful conclusion when the Sheriff announced that he would cross deputize our officers early in 2011. Lt. David DeForest, Executive Legal Counsel Dan Green and Ogema Larry Romanelli were key tribal players in achieving this agreement.



The deputization means that TPD officers will now have full law enforcement authority over the casino, gathering grounds, Aki Maadiziwin, the Trading Post and the Justice Center. In the past, their authority only extended to tribal citizens and if a non-tribal person were apprehended, outside Law Enforcement officers had to be summoned to take care of their processing. Usually this meant either the Michigan State Police or the Sheriff would respond.

In addition to Tribal Public Safety Director Mike Martin, the following officers were deputized:

Lt. DeForest, Sgt. Bates, Sgt. Szynski and officers Gilles, Medacco, Mayo, and Furman.

Also present for the swearing in were Undersheriff John O'Hagen, Sgt. Soper and tribal Information Officer Glenn Zaring.





## Commission/ Committee Stipend Payments Collected for Fiscal Year 2011 in Accordance with Resolution #03-0813-248

1. Commissions are created to regulate and manage within a subject matter or activity.
  - a. *Membership.* A commission has at least five commissioners who shall be appointed by the Ogema and approved by the Tribal Council.
  - b. *Authority.* A commission shall be granted sufficient legislative authority to allow the commission to create regulations to govern in the subject matter jurisdiction.

Commissions are created by adoption of an Ordinance which sets forth the legislative requirements, direction, limitations, restrictions or other directions regarding a subject matter. Upon adoption of an Ordinance, the commissioners shall be identified and directed to develop and present by-laws.

The Tribal Council shall establish Tribal Committees, as needed, in areas of governance and development. The Committees shall be composed of Tribal members and other interested persons who shall meet and discuss specific issues in order to provide information to the Tribal Council so that the Council can make better informed decisions that affect the Tribal community. In furtherance of this purpose, this Policy will provide rules for the organization, functions, responsibilities, and requirements of Tribal Committees.

2. Commission/Committee Schedules:

### Commissions:

<b>Binojeeuk Commission:</b>	1:00 p.m., 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays – Administration Building
<b>Commerce Commission:</b>	2:00 p.m., 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Mondays – Commerce Conference Room
<b>Enrollment Commission:</b>	5:30 p.m., 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday and Thursday of the month – Old Community Center
<b>Gaming Commission:</b>	5:30 p.m., Tuesdays – Gaming Commission Office
<b>Health Commission:</b>	5:30 p.m., 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday – Downtown Office
<b>Housing Commission:</b>	9:30 a.m., 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays – Aki Maadiziwin Community Center
<b>Natural Resource Commission:</b>	5:30 p.m., 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays – Justice Center

\*Special or Emergency Meetings do not appear but may be scheduled.

### Committees:

**Elders** – 12:00 noon, 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month – Aki Maadiziwin Community Center

3. The Binojeeuk Commissioners and Gaming Commissioners receive \$125.00 per meeting and the rest of the Commissions and Committees receive \$100.00 per meeting.



## Commission/Committee Stipends Paid January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011

### Elders Committee

Ron Pete – Chair	\$200
Marcella Leusby	\$200
Connie Waitner	\$200
Martha Kase	\$200
Sherman Moore	\$100
Pat Ruiter - Liaison	\$ 0

*Liaison attended 2 out of 2 meetings*

### Commerce Commission

Connie Waitner	\$300
Jason Cross	\$400
Denis Miekle	\$ 0
Peggy Vriesman	\$400
Kareen Lewis	\$400
Janine Sam - Liaison	\$ 0

*Liaison attended 1 out of 4 meetings*

### Gaming Commission

Lee Ivinson	\$1,375
Dave Corey	\$1,375
Terri Nauta	\$1,250
Robert Whiteloon - Liaison	\$ 0
Janine Sam – Alternate	\$ 0

*Liaisons attended 0 out of 11 meetings*

### Housing Commission

Judy Nedean	\$500
Ron Wittenberg	\$400
Aldeanna Kelsey	\$500
Leona Deater	\$400
Julia Chapman	\$500
Steve Parsons - Liaison	\$ 0

*Liaison attended 2 out of 5 meetings*

**NOTE:** Sandy Mezeske and Lee Sprague are not appointed as a liaison to any Commission or Committee.

### Binojeeuk Commission

Julia Chapman	\$875
Hariette Grantsynn	\$750
Carol Gibner	\$875
Kimberly Alexander	\$875
Virgil Johnson (Attended 5)	\$ 0
Candace Chapman – Liaison	\$ 0

*Liaison attended 7 out of 7 meetings*

### Enrollment Commission

Katie Glocheski	\$400
Aldeanna Kelsey	\$600
Margery Lutz	\$600
Alvin Patricio	\$600
Diana O'Neal	\$400
Donna Schultz	\$500
Charmaine Stone	\$600
Robert Whiteloon – Liaison	\$ 0
Virgil Johnson – Alternate	\$ 0

*Liaisons attended 0 out of 6 meetings*

### Health Commission

Marty Wabindato	\$300
Pamela Johnson	\$300
Al Patricio	\$300
Loretta Beccaria – Liaison	\$ 0
Janine Sam - Alternate	\$ 0

*Liaisons attended 0 out of 3 meetings*

### Natural Resource Commission

Robert Chandler	\$500
John Koon	\$500
Mike Ceplina	\$500
Herman Gamelin	\$400
Scott Wahr	\$500
Pat Ruiter – Liaison	\$ 0
Virgil Johnson – Alternate	\$ 0

*Liaison Ruiter attended 2 out of 5 meetings.*

*Liaison Johnson attended 3 out of 5 meetings*



LRBOI Tribal Council											
Work Session Attendance											
Date	Work Session Title	Steve Parsons	Janine Sam	Loretta Beccaria	Candace Chapman	Virgil Johnson	Sandy Mezeske	Pat Ruiter	Lee Sprague	Robert Whiteloon	Total Attending
3/1/11	Tribal Court Software	x	x	x		x	x			x	6
3/3/11	Lagoon/Land Use	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	8
3/4/11	Government Structure	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	8
3/7/11	Agenda Review		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
3/7/11	Government Financial Report	x		x	x			x	x		5
3/8/11	Cost of Living Adjustments	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
3/11/11	Medical Marijuana Ordinance	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		7
3/11/11	Debt Retirement	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		7
3/14/11	Agenda Review	x		x	x		x	x			5
3/15/11	Wage/Merit Plan	x	x	x	x		x	x			6
3/18/11	Government Structure Ordinance	x	x	x	x		x	x			6
3/21/11	Rehabilitation for Licensure	x	x	x	x		x			x	6
3/21/11	Indian Preference Ordinance	x	x	x	x		x			x	6
3/21/11	Agenda Review	x	x	x	x		x			x	6
3/21/11	Public Safety	x	x	x	x		x			x	6
3/22/11	Commissions Ordinance	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
3/22/11	Rehabilitation for Licensure	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
3/22/11	Wage/Merit Plan	x	x	x	x		x	x		x	7
3/29/11	Contracting Ordinance	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
3/29/11	Agenda Review	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
3/29/11	Wage/Merit Plan	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8
3/29/11	Indian Energy	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	7
22	Totals for March	21	16	22	21	8	21	17	7	16	

## Council makes bold financial move!

March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council made a bold financial move and voted to retire the remaining debt on the tribes' gaming facility, the Little River Casino Resort.

Stephen Parsons, speaker of the nine-member Tribal Council, said in an interview that retiring the debt on the Little River Casino Resort positions the tribe well for future opportunities. These opportunities include improvements and expansion of services to Tribal Members in the 9-County area which is served by the Manistee-area based tribe.

The Tribal Council decided to retire the remaining \$19.3 million in debt stemming from the expansions. In addition to the potential for future economic development opportunities, the Tribal Council issued a statement that the uncertainty of the current economic climate and increased competition from new gambling enterprises in Michigan influenced the decision. *(see the official news release.)*

*(March 17, 2011) Manistee, MI*

### LITTLE RIVER BAND ANNOUNCES DEBT RETIREMENT

In just under 12 years, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has retired the debt on its gaming facility. After careful deliberation, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Council voted Monday to retire the debt associated with their Manistee gaming facility, The Little River Casino Resort.

The Band had been slated to refinance the remaining debt during the month of March, however, they decided to pay the balance of the loan in full. Many considerations were taken into account, along with the uncertain economic climate and increased competition resulting from new gaming enterprises in Michigan influenced the landmark decision. The sentiment expressed by Tribal Council Members was: *"This is a proud moment for our Nation. Our Tribe is completely debt free!"*

The Little River Band opened its first gaming operation in 1999, with a 27,500 sq.ft. interim facility that included a 19,000 sq.ft. gaming floor. Today, the Band's Manistee operation includes nearly 425,000 sq. ft., with a 45,000 sq. ft. gaming floor comprised of 1,500 slot machines and 28 table games, a 292 room hotel complete with luxury suites, and fine dining to buffet style eateries. The Little River Casino and Resort stands as Northern Michigan's Premier destination.

The Tribal Council confirmed that, *"Our dedicated staff, extraordinary customer service and overwhelming community support, enables Little River Band to create and preserve job opportunities, consider expansion of other economic endeavors, while maintaining the fiscal stability of the Band for the next Seven Generations."*

Authorization for release of this statement provided by the LRBOI Tribal Council, Office of the Recorder

For further information, contact the Office of Public Affairs for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians at 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660. Office phone 231.723.8288. E-mail to [gzaring@lrboi.com](mailto:gzaring@lrboi.com)





## **Recorder's Report to the Membership-April 2011 New or Upcoming Legislation:**

The Elder's Protection Code has completed public comment period, and is slated to be enacted during the last meeting in April. The Indian Preference in Employment Ordinance has completed its final public comment period, and is also expected to appear on the Tribal Council's agenda during the last meeting in April. By the time you receive this newsletter, final action will have been taken on both laws. The Tribal Council enacted the Rehabilitation for Licensure Ordinance, which defines how the Gaming Commission may grant licensure and consideration of certain disqualifying events. The enactment of this Ordinance, coupled with the newly enacted Gaming Ordinance, allows the effective regulation of gaming while providing opportunity to remove employment barriers for Tribal members when possible.

The Council is considering amendments to the Commissions Ordinance, and has posted the amendments for 30 day public comment. The amendments proposed are to grant flexibility to tribal employees that serve commission appointments, allowing them time to attend travel when necessary on behalf of the Commission. The Council enacted a temporary measure by resolution, and the posted amendments are to permanently adopt a mechanism to enable commission business to be handled while protecting the operation of a department. Membership may view the proposed changes at the Tribal Council's page on the Band's Website.

## **Commission's Activity Report**

Included in this month's submission is the stipend report required to be published. The Council enacted a resolution that mandated publication of stipend payments and commission liaison activity. There are currently 7 commissions operating within the Tribal Government. In this publication, the Recorder provides an overview of Commissions purpose and function. Due to space constraints, there are two reviewed in this submission, with others to be reviewed in future publications.

**Binojeeuk Commission:** The Binojeeuk (Children's) Commission is formed under the Children's Protection Code of Little River Band. Their primary purpose is protecting the best interests of the child and promoting the stability and security of Indian families by fully exercising the Tribe's rights and responsibilities under the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 and the Tribe's Protection Code. Their duties include monitoring child welfare cases, making recommendations to the Family Services Department and Prosecutor

regarding the care, custody and supervision of Tribal children under Court jurisdiction, including recommendations as to case plan, guardianship and termination of parental rights. There are other duties assigned by law to this Commission, but to summarize: This Commission is the body that makes recommendations regarding any child in care (in the foster care system), and assists in prescribing plans to re-unify families when possible.

**Commerce Commission:** The Commerce Commission is formed by the Commerce Commission Ordinance. The purpose of this commission is to promote diversification of the Tribal economy, entrepreneurial efforts of Tribal members and to provide oversight and policy supervision to the Department of Commerce and programs administered by that Department and to develop policies that ensure an effective utilization of Tribal resources and financial opportunities as they may become available. The Commerce Commission also is a regulatory agency of the Tribe to enact regulations necessary to implement policies aimed to diversify the Tribal economy, subject to approval of Tribal Council. Another example of the Commission's duty is to assist the Department of Commerce Department in developing Tribal enterprises, by participating in negotiations and conducting proper due diligence activities. The Commerce Commission also acts as a hearing body, for the specific items assigned to their jurisdiction within the Commerce Commission Ordinance.

## **Commission Seats upcoming for appointment in 2011**

The following Commissions have terms of appointment that are set to expire during this year, which will create vacancies on some of the Commissions. The Ogema is responsible for nominating persons to fill the vacancies or reappointments necessary to attain fully appointed commissions, and the Tribal Council is responsible for confirming those appointments. Members that may be interested in serving on a Commission can view the Ordinances and Reports of the Commissions on the Tribal Council's website. Members are encouraged to submit letters of interest to the Ogema's office, if they desire to serve a position on a commission. There is no prohibition on continued service, and seated commissioners are eligible to be reappointed.

**Gaming Commission:** There are currently only three (3) people serving on this Commission, and two vacancies that are existing. All three seats currently being served are set to expire in

September of this year. This Commission regulates the Tribe's casino, and the Casino cannot operate without a regulatory body to oversee its operation. The Tribe realistically needs 5 people to sit on this Commission, but historically, has not been able to seat a full commission for a number of years. Tribal members must pass an extensive background investigation in order to serve as a commissioner to this body.

**Binojeeuk Commission:** There are five (5) seated commissioners on this body, but three of those seats are expiring this year. Tribal members must pass an extensive background investigation in order to serve as a commissioner to this body.

**Commerce Commission:** There are five (5) seated commissioners on this body, but one of those seats is expiring this year.

**Enrollment Commission:** There are seven (7) seated commissioners on this body. Three (3) seats are expiring this year, and will be open for consideration of appointment this fall.

**Health Commission:** There are three (3) seated commissioners serving currently, with two (2) positions vacant. One of the currently seated commissions has a term expiring this fall, with two vacancies yet to be filled.

**Natural Resource Commission:** There are five (5) seated commissioners on this body. Three (3) of those seats expire this fall.

**Housing Commission:** There are five (5) seated commissioners on this body. Two (2) seats on this commission are set to expire this fall.

As you review the number of members required to serve commission seats, please be reminded that important business of the Tribe is handled within each of these bodies. The reality is that there will be 18 positions in total to be nominated by the Ogema to fill the vacancies or reappointments on each of these bodies. Two of the Commissions require extensive background checks to ensure eligibility to serve, and without volunteers, the work of the Commissions will suffer.

Those members currently serving on Commissions are sincerely thanked, Kchi-Miigwetch, for the service and contributions made to your fellow members, through your dedication and hard work.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janine M. Sam

## EVERYBODY NEEDS A

## MEDICAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

If you are in an accident and are unconscious, have dementia, or are unable to make and communicate medical decisions for yourself for any reason, who will make medical decision for you?

The answer is that nobody, even your spouse, has the ability to make medical decisions for you unless you have a power of attorney that appoints a person to make medical decisions for you. The person appointed to make medical decisions for you is called a "Patient Advocate".

A Medical Power of Attorney allows you to choose a Patient Advocate to make medical decisions for you if you are unable to do so for yourself. Your inability to make medical decisions must be determined by your physician.

The Medical Power of Attorney allows your Patient Advocate to make all medical decisions for you such as what type of medical care, treatment, surgical procedures, diagnostic procedures, or medicine you should have. Your Patient Advocate can also hire and fire doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, and admit or discharge you from a hospital or nursing home. The Medical Power of Attorney also allows you to state whether you want life support if you are in an incurable or irreversible condition and your physician determines that without the life support you would die in a short period of time. Some people do not want to have life support and others do want life support. This document allows you to specify your wishes.

It is extremely important for EVERYBODY to have a Medical Power of Attorney appointing Patient Advocates to make medical decisions for you if you are unable. This will ensure that YOUR WISHES are followed.

This document is different from a Living Will. A Living Will only specifies your wishes regarding life support, but does not appoint a person to make medical decisions for you.

The Members Legal Assistance Attorney can assist all tribal members and their spouses with preparing a Medical Power of Attorney at no charge. Please call the Attorney to discuss this important document. This document must be prepared BEFORE you are unable to make medical decisions for yourself. Don't wait until it is too late to get a Medical Power of Attorney.

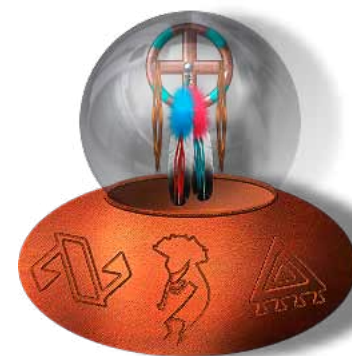
Mary K. Witkop  
Members Legal Assistance Attorney  
231-398-2234  
888-723-8288 x 2234  
[mwitkop@lrboi.com](mailto:mwitkop@lrboi.com)

### **MICHIGAN INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES PILOT PROJECT: CRIMINAL DEFENSE AT LRBOI TRIBAL COURT**

Michigan Indian Legal Services (MILS) and the Tribal Court are pleased to announce that MILS will begin offering assistance to criminal defendants in the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal Court. Starting now, MILS attorneys will be available to represent indigent defendants facing criminal charges as part of a year long pilot project. The service will be available and free to those individuals who meet income eligibility and other requirements.

The purpose of the pilot project is twofold. First, MILS hopes to provide high quality representation by assisting clients through the system, providing necessary balance in an adversarial system. Second, through the experience of the pilot project, MILS hopes to be able to make an informed decision as to whether we should maintain the project at LRBOI, expand into other tribal courts, or end the program as part of the commitment to serving the native communities within Michigan. MILS will conduct an ongoing program evaluation with the help of clients and LRBOI Court staff.

Those Tribal Members facing criminal charges in the Tribal Court, will be notified of this project, and given MILS contact information at the first court hearing.





Brought to you by the Peacemaking/Probation Department

*We all have the personal choice to act on our anger and emotions. Sometimes it is hard to maintain control and not be reactionary to other people, places or things. Sometimes it seems like people are just pulling our strings and making us dance around like puppets. But really, no one can "make you mad" or "sad" or "glad" but yourself, unless you want to give other people that control over you. No one is perfect at not being ruffled by the words or actions of other people, but if we start to take responsibility for our own actions and our own reactions to situations, we might start to feel less like puppets dancing in someone else's theatrical production. (Dance Puppet-Monkey, dance!) Realizing that we have a choice is the beginning to making better personal decisions. Just because the organ grinder starts playing his tune, doesn't mean that we have to dance around like crazy monkeys, unless of course, we just feel like dancing.*

## “The Angry Visitor”

By Austen Brauker

Do you remember the Pinaaboo story about the visitor who rode in on the white horse and how he was fed the potato soup? Well, the next day the same visitor awoke, long after sunrise, with a great pulsing anger in his chest. To him, the anger was like a warm campfire that comforted his spirit. His fists and teeth were clenched tight. His face boiled with pressure. This man didn't like to be made a fool of, so he walked right to the center of the village and began jumping up and down, stomping his feet, waving his arms wildly and shouting for everyone to listen to him.

The people of the village heard the confusion and gathered around the disturbance to see what was going on. It was an amazing tantrum. The Indians had never witnessed such a display, not even from their children, so this strange sight was far, far out of the ordinary.

“Your chief is a fool!” the angry visitor shouted. “I will show you that he cannot make *me* obey his words! I will show you that none of you have to do what he says! You do not need to listen to that foolish old man! He cannot tell you what to do!”

The Ogemaa finally came out of his lodge and sat in front of his doorway, chewing on a piece of salted jerky and watching the growing crowd of people who were gathering around the angry visitor.

“I will show *all* of you!” continued the raging man. “That this so called *chief* of yours does *not* have the power to make you do what he says!”

The Ogemaa smiled. “Oh, Yes I can. Come over and sit down. I will show you that you will obey my words.”

“I will *not* obey you!” reported the angry visitor.

“Then come over here and prove it.” The Ogemaa grinned at him.

The angry man walked over to the Ogemaa and stood over him, breathing hard, puffing his chest out, trying to intimidate him.

The Ogemaa just grinned at him, even bigger than before.

“Please. Sit down.” He offered, calmly. “This might take a while. I don't want you to get tired standing there.”

The man sat down to the left of the Ogemaa.

“Wait a minute, that is the side that my wife usually sits on. Are you sure you want to sit there? People might get the wrong idea about the two of us.”

The man got up and moved to the right side of the Ogemaa.

“Have something to eat first.” Offered the Ogemaa, and pointed with his chin toward a piece of dried meat.

The reddened man took the jerky and began to chew.

“Have something to drink.” Said the Ogemaa, winking. “It is rather salty.”

The man took a drink.

“Okay” said the Ogemaa. “Let us get down to our business here. Now that you are doing every single thing that I have asked you to do since you got here? What was it that you wanted to say to me?”

Austen J. Brauker, Peacemaking/Probation Department

## Full Ride at UofA



It was announced that Patrick Wilson Jr., son of former LRBOI Ogema Pat and Alta Wilson has been awarded a full four-year scholarship to the University of Arkansas to pursue a degree in Conservation Criminology. Patrick has volunteered his services during summer months with the Tribe's Natural Resources Department where he has consistently received high marks for his enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

His sister Sunflower Wilson is also a student at the University of Arkansas.

Jimmie Mitchell, Director of the LRBOI Natural Resource Department adds “the Department is devoted to mentor Tribal Citizen/Descendant Students who possess the desire to advance in a career of Natural Resource Management. We believe by involving Students early on with firsthand experience in Tribal resource management techniques and principles, the sense of purpose and commitment they acquire will set the course for the remainder of their education and career”



March 30, 211



Aanii

Today as I am writing this message for the *Currents*, I have in my mind all our Veteran's and especially have those who have served in Vietnam. March 30<sup>th</sup> has been declared by the U.S. Senate as

"Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day" by resolution. In March 30, 1973 all U.S. troops were withdrawn from Vietnam under terms of the Treaty of Paris. In my mind I still see the evacuation taking place at the U.S. Embassy and the last of the Marines climbing aboard the helicopters to leave this place that cost us so much. Many of these men and women came home to a process in that did not reflect them in a positive light nor credit them for the sacrifices they made during their service. So we really still need to say "Welcome Home" and "Thanks for serving". Last year I was privileged

and honored to be asked to participate in the LZ-Michigan which took place in Grand Rapids at the minor league ball park. There were several thousand Veterans present and many of the service organizations and community groups from around Michigan came to support this effort. Mr. Roger Williams, Pokagon, U.S. Air Force delivered the opening prayer in the language and we delivered an Honor Song for all Veterans'. Mr. Williams did an excellent job in the explanation of the cultural aspects of our presentation. It was something that was greatly appreciated by those in attendance and we were given many personal acknowledgments as we leaving. Many remarked the appreciation of the response from the tribal people of Michigan by our attendance and presentation. We saw that it was taken as intended, a heartfelt "Welcome Home" from our people.

Closer to home I would like to acknowledge the support of others within the Warriors Society to my election as the Commander. I would also like to express appreciation for those that have served in prior years for bring us to this point. In the immediate past we would like to say Miigwetch to Mr. John Shepard, Virgil Johnson, Robert

Memberto, and Patrick Wilson for their ongoing efforts as an Executive Committee members who worked diligently these last years to move along the Tribal Ordinance and work towards an overall improvement of our efforts together. For those of you out there that have not participated in awhile, we need your service and support for us to develop further the efforts of service to the community. We already have numerous activities that we have been asked to support and to become involved in. Certainly, there are the Spring and Fall membership meetings and our responsibilities for the posting of the Flags and Eagle Staff. In addition we are again working with "Tight Lines" sponsored by the Casino and support from Bob Guenthardt, former Ogema. We are looking for volunteers for May 21st as we have the responsibility of feeding the Veterans participating on this free Charter Fishing day for Veterans. If you want to help out, please call us at 1-231-398-6728 so we can list you for this effort.

Miigwetch for your continuing support !!!  
Bill Memberto

## THE LITTLE RIVER BAND OF OTTAWA INDIANS

# GENERAL ELECTION



NOW IN LIVING COLOR!  
APRIL 29TH 2011 STARTING AT NOON  
[HTTP://WWW.USTREAM.TV/CHANNEL/LRBOI-ELECTION](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/lrboi-election)  
ALSO EMBEDDED ON THE ELECTION BOARD'S PAGE ON LRBOI.NSN-GOV

## STURGEON HARVEST

"A hook-and-line sturgeon harvest will take place during the month of June on Black Lake in Otsego County.

A total of one sturgeon may be harvested by the LRBOI. The Natural Resources Department would like to coordinate a day with the LRBOI community for the harvest where all interested members may participate with hook-and-line gear.

If you are interested in this opportunity please contact:

Peggy Vriesman at 231-398-2181 or by e-mail at [pvriesman@lrboi.com](mailto:pvriesman@lrboi.com) or Marty Holtgren at [mholtgren@lrboi.com](mailto:mholtgren@lrboi.com)."

*brought to you by the friendly people in the Tribal Historic Preservation Department*



## Muzzleloaders, Pets and History

What brings together a bunch of people who love pets, like shooting stinky old guns and have an appreciation of history including Little River? How about a fundraising event at Stronach Town Hall put on by the Manistee Clan Muzzleloaders and the Homeward Bound Animal Shelter!

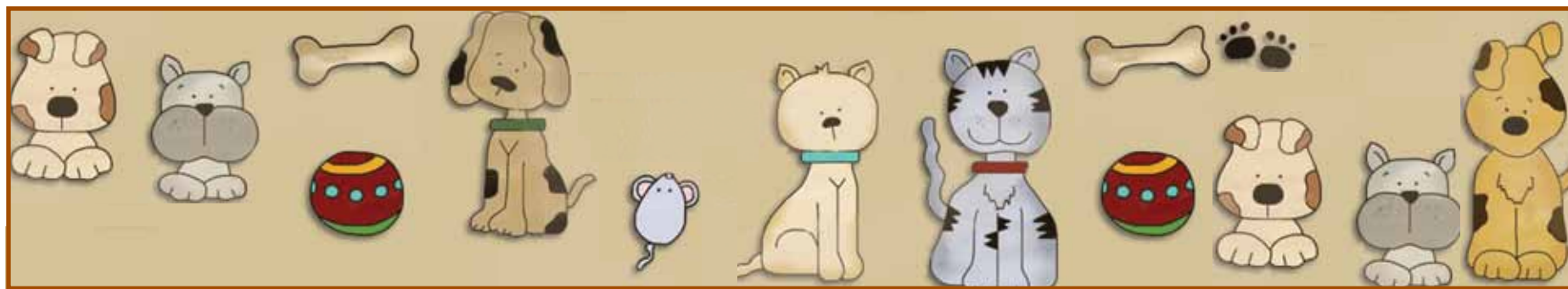
Saturday afternoon on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, Stronach Town Hall was taken over by volunteers from the tribe, Manistee Clan and the Animal Shelter for a combined fund raising event and informational display where you could see actual displays of the tools and weapons from our past as well as a chance to learn of this club and its activities.

Tribal Historical Preservation Director Jonnie "Jay" Sam set up some display tables where visitors could see actual bows, bags, powder horns, flasks and other items of tribal and historical significance. As always, Jay spent a lot of time talking to people and telling them about the tribal past in Manistee. Just down from the tribal table were displays of both modern and old rifles, handguns, trade knives and 'hawks including a Brown Bess, a Winchester High Wall in 38-55, a cap and ball revolver and many more.

The event was primarily a fund-raiser for the Homeward Bound Animal Shelter in Manistee. Prizes offered up for raffle from the tribe included a copy of our 'Our People, Our Journey' book, sweatshirts and shirts from the Trading Post.

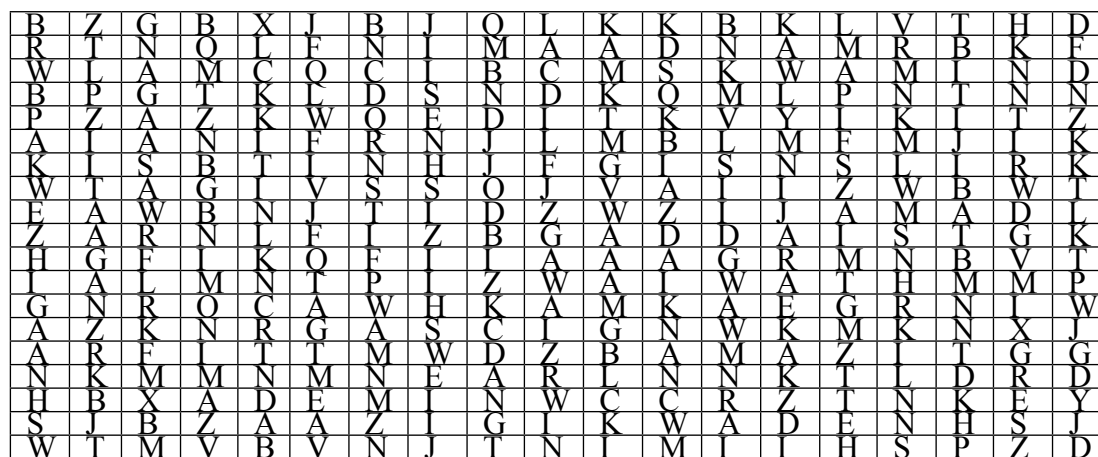
Jay Sam told the *Currents* that the tribal families have historically been involved with the Manistee Clan. He remembers coming down there with his family members to shoot and enjoy the area which is south of Manistee and east of US 31..

The Manistee Clan holds their 54<sup>th</sup> annual Rendezvous/Shoot on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a great time to enjoy the sport, camp out and try your hand at various shooting events, tomahawk and knife throwing.



## ANISHINAABE WORD SEARCH

Find and the word  
Up, Down, Across & Diagonally



MIIJIM (food)

ADEMIN	(Heart berry)
BIJIZAGAN	(Bread)
JISENHS	(carrot)
KWASMAAN	(pumpkin)
MANDAAMIN	(corn)
MINOMIN	(rice)
MNIJIMIN	(pea)
MSKWADIISMIN	(bean)
MSKWAMIN	(raspberry)
OZAAWEMIDE	(butter)

PAKWEZHIGAANHS	(cookie)
PIN	(potato)
PSHIIMIN	(apple)
WASAAGANG	(pepper)
WAWAAN	(egg)
WIIGWASMIN	(cherry)
ZAAZIGIKWADENHS	(fry bread)
ZIISIBAAKWAT	(sugar)
ZIITAAGAN	(salt)
ZIIWAAGIMIDE	(syrup)

# Sag Chip visit

Waawaaskone-Giizis (Flower Moon)  
May 2011 vol.8 Issue 5

On a sunny Tuesday in mid-March, 7 visitors from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan visited the Trading Post and the Little River Casino Resort to study how Little River handles their cigarette and gasoline sales to tribal members. Included in the group were: Michael Johnson, Chief Financial Officer; Chris Sineway, Director of Business Regulation; and Amy Gates, from their IT Department. The process is governed by the Compacts negotiated by the tribe in the past and they provide some specific guidelines that make the record keeping a challenge for many tribes.

Starting at the Trading Post, the group met tribal CFO Steve Wheeler and tribal Tax Officer Barb Czarnecki to go over our process. Trading Post manager Jamie Friedel spoke to the group and gave them a good overview of the challenge of ensuring fair and even distribution of the products to the benefit of all tribal members.

After lunch at the Casino, the group moved on to the Dome Room in the downtown offices for further discussion.

Here are some of the topics and questions that our visitors had:

## TAX IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONS

### Reporting & General

1. What information / identification is requested from the tribal members at the point of sale?
  - a. For tobacco?
  - b. For gas?
  - c. For all other retail items?
2. How are daily taxable sales aggregated and reported each day?
3. What internal forms and files are used for reporting?
4. What forms are used and sent to the State of MI and how often
5. Did Little River elect a calendar year or fiscal year (if different)?
6. What records are retained and for how long?
7. How many staff are involved and / or dedicated to the tax process?
8. Are comps accepted in your gas station or retail outlets? How are they being treated/tracked with respect to the MI tax?
9. How is the MI tax impacted with returned merchandise?

### Tobacco & Gas

1. Is there a maximum quantity target established for each Tribal member? How is this tracked?
2. Both products have several taxes included in price....what is the exact tax that is discounted?
3. Tobacco: Sold in multiple outlets or centralized in one outlet?
4. Tobacco: Is a separate inventory maintained for tribal members?
5. Tobacco: Sold by both the pack and carton?



**Barb Czarnecki**



**Steve Wheeler**



**Sag Chip Visitors**



**Jamie Friedel**





(D.J. Vanas, Tribal motivational thinker, coach and speaker offers some life lessons for all of us.)

*Flight attendants, prepare for take off...* Our 727 was rolling down the snow-covered runway in Juneau headed for Ketchikan, Alaska. Seconds after we lifted off, we were swallowed by a thick blanket of snow clouds and remained there for the entire turbulent journey to Ketchikan! We popped out of the cloud bank just seconds before the wheels touched. The entire trip, I could barely see the tip of the wing. This got me thinking...

So often our teams can feel like passengers on that flight – nervous, unsure but hopeful that the leader (the pilot) knows what the heck he is doing! Especially in the chaotic or confusing environments we find ourselves in today, it is critical that leaders act in the manner of that pilot.

**Show – don't tell.** I don't think anyone on that flight would have felt better if the pilot told us, "Hey, don't worry, I'm really good at this flying stuff." Rather, he *showed* that he was well-trained and competent in his actions. He flew us safely from point A to point B and your people expect the same from you as a leader.

**Show confidence.** "The weather is terrible and frankly I'm scared too. I'm not sure how this will go, but we'll give 'er a go." If the pilot had said that, we would have gotten off of the airplane. We expect professionals to know their craft. We expect leaders to have confidence in their abilities, their people and the direction of the team they lead. The pilot showed confidence as he stood straight and greeted us at the door and his announcements during the flight were calm, cool and collected. As tense as we got, everyone seemed to relax when the pilot came on and let us know how we were doing. The beauty of showing confidence is that it inspires confidence in others too.

**Build trust** – the magical, mystical glue that holds teams together. Everything we do as a leader should be designed to strengthen his bond of trust. We had to trust our pilot (he was the only one in the seat) and maybe that's the same for your team with you, at least at the beginning of the ride. But to strengthen and maintain trust requires time and consistent ethical action. When you have it your people will follow you through the storm clouds. If you don't have it, people won't follow you to the bathroom. We build trust through communication – verbal, written, body language but most of all through the example we set in the eyes of our followers. This isn't about trying to achieve perfection, but showing dedication in our performance even through the stumbles we're bound to have.

Remember, as a leader, *you* are the pilot. You're responsible for the plane and all the passengers aboard. Where are you headed? If you do these things above, you'll be able to successfully navigate even through the uncertainty of storms and get your people to the destination you've charted. Serving peanuts or pretzels is up to you.

D.J. Vanas

Native Discovery Inc.

(719) 282-7747 v

(719) 282-4113 f

[www.nativediscovery.com](http://www.nativediscovery.com)

"Inspiring the warrior spirit..."



## MIEA Delegates Chosen



At the last Elders meeting, March 5<sup>th</sup> delegates to the upcoming Michigan Indian Elders Association were chosen.

They will be attending the April 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> MIEA meeting in Sault St. Marie, Michigan

Elected delegates for the Michigan Indians Elders Association are:

Ferdinand Luchene, Delano Peters and Elder Secretary Marcella Leusby



Joan Peters

Delano Peters



Marcella Leusby



Ferdinand Luchene





Story and Photos By:  
Martha Howell  
Currents Staff

Despite the freshly fallen snow and bitter cold temperatures, Tribal Elder's gathered at Aki Maadiziwin March 5, 2011 for the annual Spring Elder's meeting.



Elder's enjoyed lunch and were able to mingle and engage in casual conversations with candidates for Tribal Council, Appellate Judge and Ogema. Most of the candidates running for office were in attendance and all were given an opportunity to speak to the Elder's. Each candidate was allowed 5 minutes to cover their platform and explain the basis of their candidacy.

Elder Ron Pete read over the minutes of the last meeting, and then introduced LRBOI's new Police Captain Michael Martin. Members of the Warrior Society were honored and Bill Memberto was named as the new head of the Warrior's Society.



## Corn Soup & Fry Bread



On March 12th many of our families and friends gathered together in support of the 2011 Little River Princess by participating in the Corn Soup and Fry bread Cook-off. We want to say miigwech to those that entered their favorite recipes. The People's Choice award went to Zhaawan Sprague for her fry bread and Rodger Shalifoe for his Corn Soup. The Grand National Corn Soup cook was Mark Verschueren with Rachel Leis taking the Fry Bread trophy. We would like to give extra special Chi Miigwech out to all those that donated their time, goods and services to the Silent Auction, also to the community that made the fundraiser a huge success. We would like to thank everyone that makes it possible to be able to continue to accommodate our Little River Princess 2011-2012 as she represent our nation. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and look forward to next year.

Respectfully  
The Kwewok Circle

All you young ladies we are now accepting application for the 2011-2012 princess competition that will take place at our Jiingtamok. If interested contact Deb Davis 231-398-6724 for an application





## LRBOI SEALED BID FORM

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, MI 49660  
Phone: 231-398-6873  
Fax: 231-398-6883  
mvelikan@lrboi.com

Name:				Date:		
Address:						
City:		State:		Zip:		
Phone (AM):		Phone(PM):				

### Conditions of Purchase

The undersigned agrees to the following terms:

1. That the acquired property is purchased in an AS IS condition and all property will be removed;
2. That the minimum acceptable bid is \$5,000;
3. That payment in full of the outstanding balance by certified check must occur on or before 4pm within 3 days of the bid acceptance date and received by LRBOI Accounting, 375 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660;
4. That arrangement for pick-up must be approved at payment date and be within 7 days;
5. That failure to pick up the property within 7 days and remove from Tribal property will make your bid unacceptable;
6. That LRBOI reserves the right to retract, cancel, or reopen bidding;
7. That bids must be received by April 1, 2011 at 4pm by LRBOI Property Officer, 375 River Street, Manistee, 49660

Please accept the following bid (s):

DESCRIPTION	OFFER (\$)
MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FROM GREAT LAKE DOWN	

Tribal Member Signature

Tribal ID #



6 burner steel stove  
flat grill  
kitchen grill  
steel sink  
steel counter top  
small steel cooler  
large steel food cooler/warmer  
steel table  
plastic easel board  
4 drawer file cabinet  
3 two drawer file cabinets  
3 wood book cases  
buffet table settings  
2 metal desk  
mini fridgerator



2 metal serving carts  
over 150 chairs lost count  
ver  
4 electric calculators  
2 plastic janitors carts  
7 cash registers  
wood desk  
tv  
mop buckets  
ash trays  
trash cans  
4 or 5 square tables  
round table  
metal storage rack  
vacuum



# Language Camp

Waawaaskone-Giizis (Flower Moon)  
May 2011 vol.8 Issue 5

**The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians invites you to the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Anishinaabe Family Language / Culture Camp  
Celebrating the unity of our language and culture  
Bring your nation flag and gift for the giveaway**

No registration fee  
Meals are provided

**Aanii piish  
Manistee Mi.**

**Wenesh pii  
July 29, 30, 31 2011**

## Friday July 29

Waabini Manidookewin (Sunrise ceremony)  
8:00 Opening Ceremony & Breakfast  
9:15-12:00 Presentations/workshops  
12:00 Lunch  
1:15-5:00 Presentations/workshops  
5:00 Dinner  
7:00 Talent night  
7:00 Jiingtamok

## Saturday July 30

Waabini Manidookewin (Sunrise ceremony)  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:15-12:00 Presentations/workshops  
12:00 Lunch  
1:15-5:00 Presentations/workshops  
5:00 Dinner

Sponsored by the Little River Band of Ottawa  
Indians of the Anishinaabe Nation  
And the Little River Casino Resort For more  
information please call  
Kenny Neganigwane Pheasant at  
231-398-6892 or 231-590-1187 or 231-933-4406  
Terri Raczkowski at 231-398-6891  
Email: [kpheasant@lrboi.com](mailto:kpheasant@lrboi.com) or  
[kennypheasant@charter.net](mailto:kennypheasant@charter.net)  
“Check out our language camp page on our  
website at [www.anishinaabemdaa.com](http://www.anishinaabemdaa.com)

## Sunday July 31

Waabini Manidookewin (Sunrise ceremony)  
8:00 Breakfast  
9:15-12:00 Presentations/workshops  
12:00 Lunch, Giveaway & Closing



Some presentations are: Cultural teachings, language learning, pipe teachings, natural medicines, drum making, hoop dancing, flute playing, basket making, hide tanning and games. These presentations and workshops are for all ages. We politely ask that English be the second language used at this camp. These presentations will be in both English and Anishinaabemowin. First come, first serve for the camping area. This great event will take place at the corner of M22 and US 31 across from the Casino, same place as previous years. There are showers on site. Bring your Nation flag and we will display it to show the unity of our language and culture. We encourage every family to bring a gift for the giveaway.

## Presenters Call

Aanii

Although the time may seem early, we are looking for presenters for this year's camp; this will allow for plenty of time for everyone. This year's camp will be held on July 29, 30, and 31, 2011. If you are interested in being a presenter, I will need a presentation outline and a biography.

We will need two different presentation outlines and some presenters will be asked to present for up to three different times. Each presentation should be approximately 1 ½ hours long, but if you have a presentation that requires a longer amount of time, please let us know ahead of time in order to accommodate your workshop. Please also let us know if your presentation is meant to target a particular age group or other demographic. We also need to know if your workshop is total Anishinaabemowin immersion and if you will have a translator or if you will be presenting in the English language with some Anishinaabemowin. Please note that if you have handouts for your presentation, you are responsible for making sure you have enough copies because there are no copiers on site.

Just as a note, most of our guests do not speak Anishinaabemowin and some understand it, but do not speak it yet. For some of our guests, this is the only time that they get to hear Anishinaabemowin being used. It would be appreciated for all of the presenters to remain visible throughout the camp and to be available to speak in Anishinaabemowin. We have had successful Camps because of the good presenters that have participated. We attend one another's presentations and socialize with the guests; we support one another and love our language.

Along with your presentation outline and biography, we will also need to know if you require lodging. Please send all of your information via email as soon as possible and do not wait until the last minute otherwise you may not make it on the presenter list. It would be appreciated if your presentation outline and biography could be sent as separately attached documents in the email.

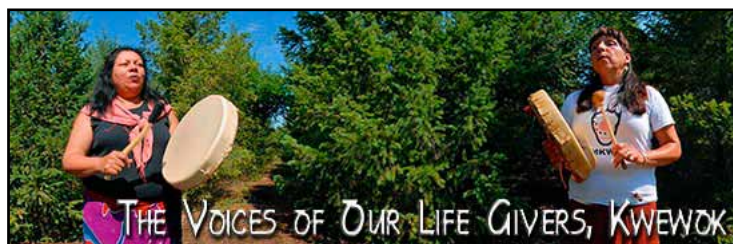
If you know anyone who may be interested in presenting at the Camp, by all means, please forward this letter to them and have them state in their email who recommended them to present.

The deadline for all of this information is May 15 2011

Here is my contact information:

[kpheasant@lrboi.com](mailto:kpheasant@lrboi.com)  
[kennypheasant@charter.net](mailto:kennypheasant@charter.net)  
[www.anishinaabemdaa.com](http://www.anishinaabemdaa.com)  
231-398-6892 (work)  
231-590-1187 (cell)  
231-933-4406 (home)

Aa miigwech  
Gaabaabaaiiyin wiibizhibiimoyin  
Kenny Neganigwane Pheasant







## Mortgage up in Smoke!



At 4 p.m. on April 9<sup>th</sup>, Tribal Council held a short ceremony in the garden area of the Little River Casino Resort and burned the tribes' remaining mortgage. Tribal Council members along with three Tribal Veterans from World War II were in attendance for the symbolic event.

In just under 12 years, the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians retired the debt on its gaming facility. That amounted to \$19.3 million in debt stemming from the various expansions to this premier facility.

The ceremony was announced at the beginning of the Membership Meeting and numerous members took a break from the deliberations to attend. As part of the celebration, two huge cakes were shared by everyone. Congratulations to our tribe for now fully owning the Little River Casino Resort!



Tribal Council Members,  
Ogema Romanelli,  
members of the  
Warriors Society



Tribal Veterans John Pete, Joseph  
Medacco, and Jacob Wabindato



Photos by: Martha Howell  
Currents Staff



## Information Please?

Over the next few months, the Office of Public Affairs will be surveying Tribal Citizens about the tribes' communication system. In an effort to improve our way of keeping you informed of what is going on within the tribe, a survey will be available at the Spring Membership Meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>, throughout the summer and into the early fall. This simple survey will ask you about the tribal newspaper the *Currents* and the e-news called the *Rapid River News*.

Please take the time to fill out the survey and then send it back or drop it off to the office so that we can review your answers and gauge what changes might need to be done to improve both publications.

Changes and improvements will then be reviewed by the Ogema and if approved put into place for 2012.

Food Distribution Program ( FDPIR ) was created by congress in 1977 Food Stamp Act as an alternative to the Food Stamp Program for Indian Reservations. The program offers commodity to low income Native American households. No household may participate in both the Commodity Food Program and Food Stamp Program, but eligible households can switch from one program to the other at the end of each month. Eligibility and participation for FDPIR are based on application and certification requiring tribal status, income and resources qualification. In determining who is eligible for the program. We are federally funded by the USDA and they set the regulations and guidelines for the Commodity Program.

USDA Income

Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations  
Net Monthly Income Standards  
October 1, 2010 & October 1, 2011

### Household Size Income Limits

1. \$ 1,045.00
2. \$ 1,357.00
3. \$ 1,668.00
4. \$ 1,991.00
5. \$ 2,329.00
6. \$ 2,666.00
7. \$ 2,978.00
8. \$ 3,290.00

For each additional member add \$ 312.00

Commodity Department serves 13 counties: Benzie, Grand Traverse, Lake Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, Wexford.



## Carol Jorgensen Scholarship for Environmental Stewardship



This scholarship provides \$1,000 to a full time student pursuing an undergraduate degree in an environmental stewardship discipline, including environmental studies, natural resource management, the natural sciences, public administration, public policy, and related disciplines.

SAIGE established this award to honor the memory and legacy of Carol Jorgensen whose service to her family, community, country, and Mother Earth was an inspiration for all. Carol was Tlingit from the Yandestake Village in southeast Alaska and was part of the Eagle/Killer Whale Fin House of Klukwan. She served many years in public service, most recently as Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's American Indian Environmental Office. She had a deep connection to our shared Earth and was a passionate advocate for protecting the environment and human health in American Indian and Alaskan Native communities.

### ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants must be affiliated with a federally recognized tribe and be a full time student pursuing an undergraduate degree in an environmental stewardship discipline (e.g., environmental studies, natural resource management, the natural sciences, public policy/administration with environmental focus, and related disciplines). Tribal enrollment is not required, but tribal affiliation must be verified by a letter of support from a current or former tribal government official or respected member of the tribal community.

### APPLICATION PACKAGE

**Transcript:** A copy of your most recent undergraduate transcript (enrolled freshmen may substitute a high school transcript).

**Letter of Support:** Applicants must submit a letter of support from a current or former tribal government official or respected member of the tribal community. This letter should attest to the applicant's commitment to community service, leadership, or record of participation in the cultural and spiritual life of the community.

**Personal Statement:** The personal statement is the most important part of the application. It is your opportunity to tell evaluators about yourself and your interest in environmental stewardship. Your essay should be personal, clear, concise, and describe how your undergraduate studies support your commitment to environmental stewardship. We recommend that applicants use their personal statements to highlight any past activities that illustrate a commitment to environmental stewardship. Personal statements should not exceed 2 pages in length and should contain the applicants full name, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

**Optional Material:** In addition to the above, applicants may include additional documents (e.g., additional letters of support from community members/educators; a personal resume highlighting work or volunteer activities in environmental, natural resource, and/or community services; writing samples; etc.). Evaluators will take these additional materials into account, but they are not required for a complete application package.

### APPLICATION PROCESS & DEADLINE

A complete application package (transcript, letter of support, and personal statement) must be received by end of business on June 3, 2011. All material should be sent via e-mail (jones.luke@epa.gov), fax (202.564.0298), or regular mail to:

SAIGE Carol Jorgensen Memorial Scholarship for Environmental Stewardship c/o Luke Jones, American Indian Environmental Office (2690-M) US Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20460

## Gardening for Healthy Lifestyle and Wellness Seminar

**When:** Saturday April 16, 2011 8 a.m. to 4p.m.

**Where:** Aki Community Center

Traditional speaker, Kathy LeBlanc Cultural Services Director from Bay Mills Community College will speak on reclaiming traditional food sources

Learn to train/prepare your soil for planting



How to extend the growing season



Building raised bed gardens and increase your yield

Planting your garden and much more

Participants may also get free blood pressure check, blood sugar monitoring and hearing screening from Beltone

Breakfast and lunch are provided

Brought to you by Diabetes Education in collaboration with the Education Department

Space is limited. Please R.S.V.P. no later than **Monday April 11, 2011**

Holly Davis Diabetes Coordinator  
 231-398-6610 or  
 Yvonne Parson 231-398-6735



## Stay Tuned for Upcoming Events In Diabetes Wellness

- Opening of Mnagaanewin (being healthy physically) Center new fitness center
- Walking Challenge to begin June 2011
- Community Garden at Aki
- Seminar to learn more about harvesting, seed saving, canning and preserving your harvest in August 2011

For more information or to ask a question call Holly Davis Diabetes Coordinator 231-398-6610



This coupon entitles you to a day in the garden





## New Budget Coordinator



Bill Willis has been hired as the new Budget Coordinator. Bill is a Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribal citizen, and has been involved in the tribal community since 1994; serving on the first Constitution and Cultural Preservation Committee. Bill was employed with the Tribe as Planning & Development Coordinator from 1996-1999; Administrative Assistant to the Tribal Council from 1999-2000, and as Budget Coordinator from 2000-2006. Bill left employment with the Tribe in January 2006 to move to California to assist his wife (Laurie) and father-in-law in caring for his ailing mother-in-law (Betty) who had battled cancer for 12 years.

While in California, Bill and his wife operated a bookkeeping and budgeting business (Willis & Associates). Bill, his wife and one daughter (McKenzie) returned to Manistee in August 2008, and was hired on with the Tribe as Executive Assistant to the Tribal Manager in November 2008, and was employed in that position until accepting the current position as Budget Coordinator.

Bill has been married to his wife (Laurie) for almost 11 years, and has 3 wonderful daughters (Shayne, Taylor and McKenzie). Bill was born and raised in

Manistee, and is a veteran of the US Marine Corps. Bill and his wife also co-pastor Christian Faith Church in Manistee.



## New Accounting Clerk



Hi, I'm Catrina Brown, new payroll clerk in the Accounting Department. I'm originally from Olivet, MI but have lived in Manistee for just over 5 years. I have a certificate in Accounting from Stratford Institute.

I previously worked for Marquette Rail as the Staff Accountant. I am married and have a 9 year old son, Ben.



### Kateri Circle 2011

Muskegon Four Season's  
2011 Gatherings

all dates times are same 11 am to 3 pm

ST. Thomas Hall

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Muskegon, Michigan

POTLUCK = Dish to pass

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Raffles and Door Prizes and silent auctions

Leader Patti Wlodkowski 231-755-4865

Debra Gutowski

231-733-2891 -- 1-616-514-6065 - cell 231-557-1634

Oct -- 23 Halloween gathering

Nov --- 13 Ghost Supper

Dec --- 11 Christmas Gathering

11am to 3 pm all Sunday dates

Everyone is welcome to come and share and socialize  
and share the day and make memories.....

Debra Gutowski-Director

Native American Ministry

360 Division Ave S suite 3A

Grand Rapids, MI. 49503

234-0491x 1517 { direct line } 514-6065

Fax { 551-5626 }



Information for the 2011-2012 school year has been updated and we will be accepting application packages between April 4-June 13, 2011 only.

We have very little emergency aid for the spring semester. Please call our office to verify funding is available before submitting an application and to see if your situation qualifies.

AAIA has a long history of providing scholarships to college students, awarding our first scholarship in 1948. We currently have eight scholarship programs for graduate and undergraduate students. Funding is made available due to the generosity of our donors, therefore the number of scholarships provided varies from year to year. All scholarships are for students who are from federally recognized tribes and who are at least 1/4 Indian blood unless otherwise stated.

Students should submit one application package only. You will be considered for all scholarships for which you are eligible. For more information on a specific scholarship, click on the scholarship name to the right. Information regarding applying for AAIA scholarships as well as links to other organizations and search engines can be found below. Print the application to the right and mail to the address listed along with the required documents by 5pm of the due date. Applications postmarked on the due date will not be accepted.

### Emergency Aid

AAIA does not provide emergency aid for students attending summer school. Limited emergency aid for students attending year round school may be available. Please see the link to the right and call our Rockville office to verify that funding is available and that your situation qualifies as an emergency.

### Announcements

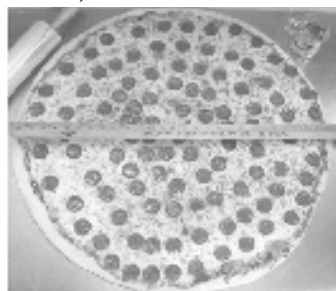
NBC Universal, Comcast and the Emma Bowen Foundation announce a Media Industry Diversity Initiative for graduating high school Seniors and college Freshmen who are interested in the entertainment and media industry. The Emma Bowen Foundation program offers multi-year paid summer internships and matching scholarship funds for selected students. This is a great stepping stone for those wishing to become an executive in publicity, TV or film development, marketing, sales, distribution or just about any other aspect of the entertainment industry. Internships are available in cities throughout the United States. Program details, applications, and a list of cities where the Foundation is currently recruiting can be found on their website at [www.emmabowenfoundation.com](http://www.emmabowenfoundation.com). Specific questions can be directed to Deb Langford at NBC Universal ([debra.langford@nbcuni.com](mailto:debra.langford@nbcuni.com)) or Phylis Eagle-Oldson at the Emma Bowen Foundation at [phylis.eagle-oldson@nbcuni.com](mailto:phylis.eagle-oldson@nbcuni.com).

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### Commissions and Committees

If you are interested in serving on any of the following committees or commissions, please submit a letter of interest to the Ogema's office indicating which committee/commission you are interested in.

Commerce Commission  
Gaming Commission  
Housing Commission  
Binojeeuk Commission  
Enrollment Commission  
Health Commission  
Natural Resource Commission.



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The law firm of Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP is pleased to announce the addition of John F. Petoskey as a new Partner in our Law Firm,

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Fax: 231-271-6391  
Email: [jpetoskey@ndnlaw.com](mailto:jpetoskey@ndnlaw.com)

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Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP id a full service law firm that limits it's practice to Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the U.S.

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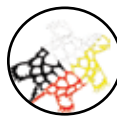
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1048 Silver Road  
Coldwater, Michigan 49036  
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[sbrauker@gmail.com](mailto:sbrauker@gmail.com)





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## Government Closes for the following Holidays

- \*New Years Day
- \*Treaty Recognition Day
- \*Memorial Day
- \*Independence Day
- \*Labor Day
- \*Reaffirmation Day (September 21<sup>st</sup>)
- \*Veteran's Day
- \*Thanksgiving Day
- \*Friday after Thanksgiving Day
- \*Christmas Eve Day (Half Day)
- \*Christmas Day

Some areas of the government will be continue to be available on these holidays, such as Public Safety.

Currents will inform you of any scheduled closings of the Government facilities. It's always a good idea to call first if you are not sure.

Just use the toll-free number of 888.723.8288.



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MARY KAY

The Warriors Society is  
Gathering photographs of members to be  
use when their office opens.

Please send photos of  
our Warriors either in  
Uniform or in  
Civilian dress to  
the address below



## WARRIORS SOCIETY

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians,  
Warriors Society,  
375 River Street, Manistee, Mi. 49660

While the excitement and activity April 9<sup>th</sup> was primarily about the tribe having a Constitutional quota of registered members and actually participating in their own governance, the spring *Membership Meeting* began with a review of the business of the tribe, from the casino to the Muskegon casino project.

The opening ceremony began at 10 a.m. in the Makwaa Endaat with the presentation of the colors, songs by 'Swirling Wind', prayer by Jonnie "Jay" Sam and a welcome by Ogema Larry Romanelli.

Robert Memberto, Commerce Director for the tribe gave a report on the status of the Muskegon project and encouraged members to go to the website and register their support. That website is <http://muskegonjobsnow.com>. Memberto explained how with a new Governor and so many new legislators that it is necessary to re-educate the state government about the issue. Robert also explained that the environmental impact study is \$4-\$7 million dollars. The environmental impact study that will set the stage for development and that we, "...can't start anything until that study is done." He added that the development of the Casino and possible Hotel will run an estimated \$100 million dollars. Again, he asked everyone to go to the website and voice their support for the project.

Ogema Romanelli, in answering a question, explained that we could not do a 'Vanderbilt' (the questionable casino built by the Sault Tribe and ordered closed by the courts) because we were taking the high road and going after the project in an honest and honorable way.

The Ogema also commented on his concerns that no feedback had come in over what should be on a Members-Only Website and that we needed to hear from the members as to what they wanted there. He also addressed the subject of comments posted on proposals on the Council's website and gave directions on how to view the comments. There had been some confusion among the members.

Next he addressed the Government Center project and explained why he supports it. The main reasons being improved access for tribal members to services and reduced costs to the tribe in everything from cost of travel among government buildings to environmental costs for heating and air conditioning. A HUD grant has also been received to apply to the project. Per cap was another issue raised and the Ogema addressed how our method of distribution actually is hurting some members. He

mentioned how some members have actually dis-enrolled from the tribe because of the affect that Per Cap was having on their SSI and other support services. Romanelli reported that the tribe is looking at other ways to distribute the Per Cap that would be less hurtful for some of the members.

Tribal CFO Steve Wheeler gave a financial report to the members and discussed his departments work on audits, indirect cost proposals and our position as of the end of the year. Wheeler included an overview of major revenue sources and direct benefits to Tribal Citizens. He said we are in a strong position and he recapped major expenditures of the tribe in 2010.

LRCR General Manager Tom Davis gave a wonderful report on 2010 as a 'banner year' for the resort in terms of distribution back to the tribe and employment. Davis reported that there has been a 30% improvement in employment of



tribal members; 6 of 10 directors are members and as a group, our tribal members make more money than any other group and that people of preference are the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest paid group.

Davis also reported that Little River is the only Michigan Indian Gaming Property to show an increase in business in 2010 and he congratulated the staff on the fine job they have done. Tom also told about some of the niche marketing they are now using with venues such as the Rodeo Room, 2010 Room and the Jungle Room. He added that they are definitely looking into a bowling alley with laser tag and an arcade as additions in the near future. He promised an update at the fall meeting.

Elder Committee Chair Ron Pete also welcomed the membership and especially thanked everyone in the 'back' room for the fine work that they have done to make our guests comfortable. Ron also reminded everyone that at the November annual Elders Meeting there will be elections as this year there will be some board members

up for re-election. He invited interested Elders to consider running for this important work.

Following the reports and lunch, the Election Board took over the meeting and ran the presentation and voting upon members proposals.

A special note of thanks to Mack Brushman from the Tribal Historical Preservation Department for live-streaming the meeting online for members who could not be in attendance.

## Our citizens cast their votes!

At the Spring Membership Meeting, a quorum of registered tribal citizens attended and voted, in a first-ever event on a number of proposals brought forward by their fellow tribal members. This voting was significant as an exercise in our tribal sovereignty and as a way to affirm for everyone that our citizens were taking an active role in their nations' governance.

Public Affairs photographer Martha Howell captured a number of scenes from this special time and they are presented here for you.

The proposals and votes themselves had not been certified by the Election Board in time for printing of this issue of the *Currents* but a full story on them will be printed in the next edition.

Congratulations to the Election Board for their work in organizing this process. It took a lot of planning and preparation especially since this has never been done before here at the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians. Lessons were learned to improve the process in the future and we can all look forward to the next opportunity to vote as citizens of our tribe.

Don't forget to register so that you can participate the next time!

Photo by: Martha Howell  
Current Staff



From our Warriors Society

**Medal of Honor Recipient, Captain Ed Freeman, United States Air Force, died in early March at the age of 70, in Boise, Idaho. “**



The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Warrior's Society Commander Bill Memberto submitted this article to commemorate the passing of a true hero and to honor all of the warriors who go into battle for us.

**“Courage...** You're a 19 year old kid. You're critically wounded and dying in the jungle somewhere in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam. It's November 11, 1967 at LZ (landing zone) X-ray.

Your unit is out numbered 8-1 and the enemy fire is so intense from 100 yards away, that your CO (commanding officer) has ordered the MedEvac helicopters to stop coming in. You're lying there, listening to the enemy machine guns and you know you're not getting out.

Your family is half way around the world, 12,000 miles away, and you'll never see them again.

As the world starts to fade in and out, you know this is the day. Then - over the machine gun noise - you faintly hear that sound of a helicopter. You look up to see a Huey coming in. But it doesn't seem real because no MedEvac markings are on it. Captain Ed Freeman is coming in for you.

He's not MedEvac so it's not his job, but he heard the radio call and decided he's flying his Huey down into the machine gun fire anyway. Even after the MedEvacs were ordered not to come! He's coming anyway. And he drops it in and sits there in the machine gun fire, as they load 3 of you at a time on board. Then he flies you up and out through the gunfire to the doctors and nurses and safety.

And, *he kept coming back!!* 13 more times!! Until all the wounded were out. No one knew until the mission was over that the Captain had been hit 4 times in the legs and left arm. He took 29 of you and your buddies out that day. Some would not have made it without the Captain and his Huey.

May God Bless and Rest His Soul.



## Natural Resource Department

### 2011 Great Lakes Fish Assessment Distribution

Annually you need to sign up for the Great Lakes Fish Assessment Distribution if you are interested in receiving fish. The distribution will take place at Manistee and Muskegon on different dates. You will be called when the fish are available. There are three ways you may sign up.

1. Call Natural Resource Department: 866-723-1594 or 231-398-2180
2. E-mail your name, Tribal ID, address, phone number, indicate if you are an Elder and where you would like to pick up fish at Manistee or Muskegon to: [bharnish@lrboi.com](mailto:bharnish@lrboi.com)
3. Fill out the form below and mail to: LRBOI Natural Resource Dept.

Atten: Bonnie Harnish

375 River Street Manistee, MI 49660

#### 2011 Great Lakes Fish Assessment Distribution Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Elder: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Tribal ID \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Indicate where you would like to pick up fish: Manistee: \_\_\_ or Muskegon: \_\_\_



## Tax-Exempt Quotas

Tax-exempt motor fuel monthly limit is 175 gallons per Tribal member.  
Tax-exempt cigarette monthly limit is 20 packs per Tribal member.



### Selling Merchandise on Tribal Land

A Tribal Tax License is required for selling merchandise on Tribal land. If you are planning an event on Tribal property that involves selling merchandise, contact the Tax Office to obtain a Tribal Tax License.

There are two types of tax licenses available. The traditional Tribal Tax License is issued annually and is for businesses operating on a permanent basis throughout the year. The Little River Trading Post is an example of a business that operates under a regular Tribal Tax License.

The Concessionaire's Tribal Tax License is issued to sellers that will be selling merchandise at a specific event for a limited time. The form for remitting Tribal tax is included on the tax license and the tax is due within 3 business days after the event. This eliminates the need to file regular quarterly Tribal tax returns. An example of someone that operates under a Concessionaire's Tribal Tax license is an artist or crafter that sells merchandise at the Little River Casino during membership meetings.

If you plan to sell merchandise on Tribal land, call the Tax Office at 231-398-6874 for more information about registering for Tribal Tax.

### Moving out of the tax agreement area

Resident Tribal members that move out of the Tax Agreement Area may incur a Michigan income tax liability. If you are claiming exemption from Michigan withholding, you must file a Michigan W-4 to have Michigan income tax withheld after you leave the tax agreement area. It is the Tribal member's responsibility to make sure the appropriate amount of tax is being withheld.

## Camp Announcement

TO the PARENTS of:

*"At-Risk" or court-involved YOUTH (members or descendants)*

Parents interested in a FREE four-day program for "at-risk" youth can contact the Peacemaking/ Probation Department. Any youth who is currently "at-risk" for getting into trouble, or has ever been, at any time in the past, involved with the courts, or has had what can be considered "negative" police contact, is eligible for participation in

this program. Funding comes entirely from the Department of Justice's, Office of Juvenile Justice, Tribal Youth Program Grant. A limited number of youth can attend this program, and it will be first come first served, pending a completed and approved application to participate.

This program will introduce the youth to the outdoors, by presenting nature education, and wilderness survival skills, from a Native American cultural perspective. The talking circle, the teaching circle and various group teamwork challenges are a major component of this program. Participants will sleep in old-styled bent-sapling lodges. They will learn how to make a fire and cook their own food. All equipment is provided.

Skills such as tracking, navigating, wilderness survival and first-aid will be taught. Participants will be shown basic plant, tree, animal and bird identification. They will also become familiar with the night time sky by learning constellations. It is FREE, at no cost at all, to any Native American youth or descendant. Other tribes, and their tribal descendants, are also welcome to attend this program, as per the grant stipulations. The only thing you will have to do is provide transportation, drop-off and pick-up of the participants. Though we welcome other tribes to participate, it should be understood that our cultural component will be taught from the perspective of the Great-Lakes area, Three-fires confederacy, woodland tribes, but more specifically, the Ottawa traditions, wherever possible.

Cultural components will include the use of traditional stories, becoming familiar with the drum, learning the difference between a sacred fire and a utility fire, learning to identify the four traditional sacred medicines and colors, learning about the medicine wheel and the grandfather teachings, being given an overview of simple ceremonies like offering tobacco, smudging, seeking a name, finding their clan, what the sweat lodge is about, the significance of dreams, and what fasting or seeking a personal vision is about. These topics will be given as overviews in the talking circle and *will not actually take place* as ceremonies, just as discussions. Participants interested in pursuing these traditional roads will be guided in learning the process, as to how they might seek out and find access to them, within their own families, clans or communities, when they return home.

The extent of ceremonial activity that *will* take place during the program will be as follows: the use of the talking circle with an eagle feather, the offering of tobacco at sunrise, after talking circles, and before meals, the use of cedar, sage or sweet grass smoke for cleansing (smudging), and being at or around the drum. All adult leaders undergo thorough background checks and have their fingerprints on file with tribal police. They are trained *before* having any direct interaction with participants. Safety and security of participants is the number one priority. The first session is scheduled from June 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. to June 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. There will be three more sessions in 2011, the last session will be in the first week of September.

**For more information, contact:**

Patrick D. Wilson 23398-2239

[pwilson@lrboi.com](mailto:pwilson@lrboi.com) or

Austen Brauker 231-398-2240

[abrauker@lrboi.com](mailto:abrauker@lrboi.com)

## Gibner Sworn onto Election Board



Tribal Citizen Carol Gibner was sworn in as the newest member of the Tribal Election Board during ceremonies before Tribal Council on March 9, 2011. Administering the oath of office was the Honorable Chief Justice, Dan Bailey.

Gibner won the Special Election held in February over Corey A. Wells.

Carol is excited about her role on the Election Board and looks forward to the challenge. She has been involved with the tribal government in the past and most recently served with the United States Census Bureau helping to gain accurate census figures on Native Americans for Census 2010. She will be serving a two year term.





## NATIVE NEWS NETWORK: American Indians Reaching out to All Nations

by Levi Rickert, editor-in-chief in Native Condition.

**The Native News Network is new website by American Indians reaching out to all nations.**

The intention of the Native News Network is to provide accurate news about American Indians that is informative, timely, educational and entertaining. While the website will begin with four sections, it is the management's intention to grow to ten or twelve sections during the first year of operation.

### News by American Indians

The genesis for the Native News Network began after I attended a focus group at a local newspaper in Michigan a number of years ago. The focus group was assembled to ascertain how the newspaper could better serve American Indians through better coverage and Indian involvement. I was one of several American Indians present. The focus group was the last in series held with other groups, which included African-Americans, Latinos and Asians.

During the focus group, there was discussion on how the media in America covers American Indians and their concerns. Discussion by the American Indian participants centered on how the mainstream media does not accurately capture the true essence of who American Indians are in contemporary times. The Indian participants pointed out that the mainstream media seems content to cover Indian gaming, tribal disputes and powwows. Unfortunately, this is how the misconceptions about American Indians perpetuate, such as the classic one: American Indians don't pay taxes on gaming revenues - or at all.

**Sadly, even with the input of the American Indians assembled, no radical change emerged** from the focus group.

One newspaper in one locale does not tell the whole story. In all states across the United States, the mainstream media fails to provide proper coverage of American Indians and our concerns. The focus group made me and others decide, as American Indians, we must tell our stories.

**“For too many years, we have let other people talk about who we are, what we need and what we want. That's why we are still a mystery. Now is the time for us to tell our story...without us telling, it will never be told properly,”**

said Tribal Chairman Matt Wesaw this past November at Grand Valley State University, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He served on a panel on how American Indians are depicted by the media. Wesaw was one of the participants with me at the focus group a few years ago.

Levi Rickert at Bimaadiziwin

High School Protest

It is the intention of the Native News Network to fill the gap provided by the lack of coverage by the mainstream media to our concerns. For this reason the Native News Network is being launched.

With the resurgence in recent decades of American Indian culture, it is the right time in our history to truly embrace our history, traditions and enjoy being



American Indians. No one person or group should ever make American Indians feel inferior for simply being who we are. It is time to celebrate being American Indians. The Native News Network intends to publish articles that tell our stories, our concerns and celebrate our successes.

### **The Native News Network will maintain professional journalistic principles.**

With that in mind, the Native News Network is seeking American Indians writers who wish to contribute to the success of this endeavor to contact us. American Indian writers can contribute commentary to be considered for op-ed columns.

American Indians deserve accurate coverage, portraying who we are and what is happening in Indian Country. It is the intention of the Native News Network to become the premier American Indian website.

*Levi Rickert is a tribal member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation and serves as editor-in-chief of the Native News Network.*





Thanks Brad Curtis JR Happy BD  
from your family!

Angels lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering  
how to fly Leona Deater and Sandy Anderson you've been angels  
such support, an aide, a  
crutch, a friend, not just in fair weather but foul and I'm  
grateful ever so much There's a miracle called Friendship that  
dwells within the heart,  
And you don't know how it happened or when it gets its start But  
the happiness it brings you always gives a special lift. And you realize  
that friendship is God's precious gift.

Leona and Sandy thank you for everything you have done for us we  
truly appreciate it.

Helen Rundquist and Bob

## Lawn Care Bid – Muskegon

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians is  
requesting proposals for the purpose of obtaining  
Lawn/Grounds care for the property located at  
4800 Harvey Street Fruitport, MI.

For bid packets, interested proposers should contact  
LRBOI's Purchasing Office at 888-723-8288 ext 6804 or  
ext 6814. Formal proposals and cost information must be  
received by April 22nd, 2011.



## Birth Announcement



Kendyll Mae Leusby  
Born February 1st, 2011

To Megan Springer and Richard Leusby  
Weighed 7lb, 6oz and was 20 ¾ inches long  
She is welcomed by big sisters  
Sidnee and Rowan and big brother Jared.  
Grandparents are Sheryll and Rick Stauffer  
And Dick and Marcella Leusby



Good Fishing!  
LRBOI Natural Resource's  
Dr. Jill Witt and her son  
Kip had some luck on the  
Manistee in March. Look  
at the smile on his face!



## Happy 35th Anniversary

35 years of wedded bliss,

and they said we

wouldn't make it!  
April 24th

Mike and Carol  
Daugherty



Brian and Lori King are proud to  
announce their daughters graduation  
from United States Army Boot Camp on  
February 11, 2011. Fort Sill, Oklahoma

## Tribal Elder walks on

Mr. Thaddeuss James "Jim" Theodore, Jr., age 67, born March 22, 1943,  
passed away unexpectedly March 21, 2011. He loved the outdoors, his  
Indian heritage (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians) and was a devoted  
Catholic. He had worked at Lakey Foundry, Port Sheldon, Bastian Blessing  
carpentering and was retired from the Local 100 Carpenters Union. Jim  
was preceded in death by his father, Thaddeuss Theodore, Sr., a brother,  
Dennis and a sister, Joyce. He leaves behind his mother, Lillian; sister,  
Judy; brothers, Mitch and Danny; sons, Thad III, Kyle, Tim; daughters,  
Leeann and Angela and several grandchildren. SERVICES were held  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, at The Sytsema Chapel, Sytsema Funeral Homes, Inc. 737  
Apple Ave. 231-726-5210 with Rev. John Brown officiating..  
INTERMENT was at St. Mary's Cemetery.







## Bakakwenh Naboo (Chicken Soup)



Bakakwenh Naboo is a new “good for you” forum where you can ask the questions that you have always wanted to know the answer to. Bakakwenh Naboo will answer your questions about Anishinaabek culture, traditional teachings, relationship building, and general advice. There might even be some wisdom here and there for you. No question is too obscure for Bakakwenh Naboo to try to answer. Shake an egg, and send your questions to: [csoup@lrboi-nsn.gov](mailto:csoup@lrboi-nsn.gov)

This column is open to all Tribal Members and Descendants.  
Those who ask a question will have their names changed to protect their privacy.  
Note: You can make up our own name or Bakakwenh Naboo will come up with an appropriate moniker for you.

### Bakakwenh Naboo Questions

#### Question 1.

Q. Flappy Frybread asked: Why do we smudge?

A. Bakakwenh Naboo says: Rubbing too hard on the paper or not letting the ink dry, Kaa! Smudging is a purification ceremony; we do a smudge when there is a need, like when there is negative or angry feeling. We smudge ourselves to cleanse our body, mind, and spirit. We also smudge our Wiigwaaman, to remove anything bad or negative that might be in our homes or any other place we want to have good feeling and or have things done in a good way.

#### Question 2.

Q. Wondering Star asked: How does the medicine wheel make a star?

A. Bakakwenh Naboo says: To make a “star” you need try out for “American Idol” Wegnesh? There is a 7-point star that is based on the Anisinaabe clan system and the 7 Grandfather Teachings. The seven point star shows the interconnections and the relationship to each other and allows for equal participation of all people and their clans.



**DISCLAIMER:** We make no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the information; also we cannot answer any questions involving politics, legal questions or give medical advice. We can promise you; you will get an answer to your question. Bakakwenh Naboo, says this is but one possible answer, there may be other ways to answer the question. Offering sema, to an Elder would be a respectful way to receive a more in-depth answer to your question.

Starting in April the Peacemaking/Probation Department will be accepting “Letters of Interest” from Tribal Members who would like to become part of the Peacemaking team. Every year we strive to involve more Tribal Members and ask for volunteers to become Peacemakers.

The Peacemaking/Probation Department invites you to become part of the peacemaking process, by healing Tribal relationships two Members at a time.

If you are interested in becoming a Peacemaker,  
Please contact:  
Pat Wilson (231)398-2239 email: [pwilson@lrboi.com](mailto:pwilson@lrboi.com)  
or  
Austen Brauker (231)398-2240 email: [abrauker@lrboi.com](mailto:abrauker@lrboi.com)  
”Odenaang Enjinoojimoying “A Place of Healing Many Hearts”

# Currents

You can find this and many other issues at [lrboi.com](http://lrboi.com)

*Megwa Ezhiweback*



*Waawaaskone-Giizis (Flower Moon)*  
May 2011 vol.8 Issue 5



## Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Kwewok Circle

### Looking for Miss LRBOI Princess Contestants 2011

Requirements to apply  
Age 13-18

Single, no dependents

Full regalia

Must have knowledge of  
customs and traditions,  
will have to write a short  
Bio about yourself.

Share goals, ambitions,  
education, family ,your  
interest and hobbies

Must be Little River or  
a descendent

For information on how  
to apply call Debra Davis  
231-398-6724

### Miss LRBOI Katie Crawford 2010



**Imagine yourself being crowned  
Miss LRBOI Princess  
What an honor!**

You will represent the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians at the Pow-wow's and be treated like royalty. You will receive a crown ,sash ,flowers , photo shoot, and a paid trip to Petoskey for the Miss Odawa Nation 2011 Competition

Little River Band of Ottawa Indians  
375 River Street  
Manistee, Michigan 49660

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 195  
Manistee, MI

Or Current Resident

## BeDaBin's Annual Egg Hunt

**Saturday,  
April 23, 2011**

**Prize Awarded  
for each  
age group  
( 0-2, 3-6, 7&up)**

**11:00 am at  
Gathering  
Grounds  
(across from  
Casino)**

**Join us for  
lunch  
and door prizes**

**All children must be accompanied by an adult**

*Happy Easter*

**For more information call  
Julie Wolfe Youth Prevention Counselor  
1-888-382-8299**

April 26th the Members Assistance  
Office will be closed for department training.  
The department will be attending  
HIPPA training provided by the  
Manistee-Benzie Community Mental Health.